

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

TO THE

PAUL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

For the Year 1913.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Report for the year 1913.

The Paul Urban District Council is situated on the western shore of Mount's Bay. It comprises an agricultural area, in which are situated the villages and hamlets of Paul, Sheffield, Tredavoe and Kerris, in addition to these there are the large fishing villages of Newlyn and Mousehole with their Harbours of which Newlyn is much the larger and most important, owing to visits of fishing boats from other parts. Here large quantities of fish are bought and sold in the Market. There is also a large amount of Stone used in the making of roads which is raised at the Penlee Quarries, and is shipped from Newlyn Harbour.

The Area of the Civil Parish and Urban District is 3,439 acres of land, 3 acres of water, and 79 acres of foreshore, with a population of 6,014. The soil is light loam, the sub-soil killas and granite.

The population decreased somewhat from 1901 to 1911.

The chief industries are fishing, fish curing, agriculture, quarrying and the manufacture of Sanotogen.

There are no industries that have any particular influence on the public health, but owing to the serious failure in the local fishing for some years past, many families have been in straightened circumstances; this is understood when it is seen that about 750 men are engaged in the fishing, this number with their families making 3,700 to depend on the industry. In spite of a certain amount of poverty, the inhabitants on the whole are healthy, the children both clean and decently clad. Fishing was formerly the only occupation, but as this industry is dying out, the young of both sexes either emigrate or are engaged in different employments in the town of Penzance.

A large quarry employs about 100 hands. There is also a large fleet of East Country boats that make Newlyn their headquarters during the spring of the year, and many of the native fishermen help in the packing of the fish that this fleet brings to the port. The Newlyn sailing fishing boat is no longer able to compete with the large steam drifters of the Eastern Counties, although it is to be noticed that many of the native fishing boats are being fitted with motors.

Water Supply.

There are two separate supplies for Newlyn, one the "Bellevue" supply, this comes from an adit situated above the village and piped to a reservoir having a 25,000 gallon capacity, from this point the water is laid on to stand pipes. In case of any shortage of these supplies, the Council have an agreement with the Newlyn Ice Company for an augmented supply which is obtained from a clay well near Sheffield, and is used during the dry season of the year. All these supplies have been analysed at intervals and found free from impurities, contamination, and plumbo-solvent action. The Newlyn Harbour Commissioners have a pure supply which comes from Trewidden, in the Parish of Madron, for the use of the Harbour, Shipping and the Penlee Quarry. A water scheme for the supply of a larger area of the District is in contemplation. The collecting area has been prospected, but little progress with the scheme has been made during the year. If this scheme were accomplished, a more constant and individual house supply would be assured.

Mousehole has three "shoots" for drinking purposes, viz. : "Pedney Counce," "School Shoot," and "Fox's Shoot." These have been analysed and found pure. There are no standpipes. There is a scheme in progress to obtain a water supply from an area, the property of "The Hutchen's Charity Trust," situated above Mousehole, but owing to legal difficulties no progress has been made during the year.

The well water for the supply of Sheffield has been analysed during the year, and found to be pure.

A well has been sunk for the supply of water to houses at Bosava, there being no such supply previously.

Rivers and Streams.

The only streams of importance are the Tolcarne and Lamorna streams, the former dividing this District from Madron, the latter from the West Penwith District.

The Lamorna stream is free from contamination. The Tolcarne River is no longer contaminated by the waste water from the Sanatogen Works, there has been no objectionable smells arising from the River as there was formerly, but complaints are made as to the smell arising at the point where the Sanatogen pipe finishes, *i.e.* on the back of the new Institute. It is to be hoped that as soon as the water is sufficiently low to enable the pipes to be extended to the sea, this nuisance will be remedied. All pipes carrying drainage from the Newlyn side of the River have been connected up to the Sanatogen main sewer pipe; and now if the inhabitants can be refrained from throwing refuse into this stream and the drainage from the Madron side diverted, very little will be needed to render this stream free from contamination.

A small stream runs down through Mousehole, this empties into the harbour. Slop water and other refuse is thrown into this, I cannot report of any cases of illness arising from this, but a better system of drainage for Mousehole is desired. During the greater part of the year, while there is a good flow of water, no particular nuisance is caused, but when the stream is low, the smell is often offensive.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Street-an-Nowan (Eastern part of Newlyn) is drained throughout. There is an additional sewer laid at the bottom of Paul Hill, this carries the sewerage from the houses in the vicinity.

The sewerage pipes opening into the Tolcarne stream are connected with the Sanatogen sewer, and taken to the sea.

At the time of heavy floods, the houses on the strand standing on the lowest ground get flooded, this is accounted for by the sewer not being of sufficient capacity to take the storm water. Special pipes should be laid to carry the storm water, this should be undertaken at the same time that the Sanatogen sewer is extended to the low water mark.

At Newlyn Town the slop water and Surface drainage is carried by "Bolts," these empty over the cliff, and consequently into the harbour, this together with the refuse that is constantly thrown down the face of the cliff, is the greatest nuisance in the whole district. Through the summer months the smell is very bad, and complaints are continually being made, not from the inhabitants living in the Vicinity, but from non-residents. It would seem as if continual contact with these odours has rendered the residents at this point immune to smell. A system of drainage is badly needed for Newlyn Town. The extra water supply now contemplated would be a most important step to the drainage and water closet system.

There is a scheme for the extension of the road under the cliff, but nothing has been done in the matter, and nothing is likely to be done for many years to come. If this work should be commenced, the drainage could be taken in hand at the same time, but if the finances of the district will allow it, the drainage of Newlyn should be at once seriously considered.

At Mousehole, the slop water and sewerage discharge through pipes and 'bolts' into the harbour, the stream before mentioned acting also as a sewer.

There are very few closets of any kind attached to cottages in Newlyn Town or in Mousehole, although a few new closets are added yearly. The excreta together with the house refuse is collected on four days weekly by a man and cart, this is dumped on the foreshore on the south of Newlyn. The spot is not a suitable one, and is made still more undesirable by the refuse, etc. being left above high water mark, and there allowed to remain. The inhabitants living near this particular foreshore complain of the smell arising from this refuse, especially so during the hot weather. If it is not possible to burn this refuse or have it taken to sea and thrown into deep water, it should be taken to some other spot further from habitation. It must be pointed out that much of the refuse is brought from another district, viz. : Madron.

At Sheffield there is no system of drainage, formerly much of the house refuse was thrown on a waste piece of land in the centre of the hamlet, but an improvement has taken place during the last year ; and there is not so much refuse etc., thrown about as there was formerly. Most of the cottages have gardens attached, consequently there is no excuse for throwing refuse on the waste land before mentioned.

Closets are still needed for many houses in Sheffield, but a few were added in 1913. Seven pail closets were converted into water closets, ten new water closets erected, and nine new earth closets.

Sanitary Inspection of the District.

During the year (apart from the inspection under the Housing and Town Planning Act) 190 premises were visited. 6 courts were in a dirty condition, one stable yard was found to have manure left too long in situation, 30 sink traps were defective, two houses in a dirty condition, 4 cases of sewerage overflowing from house drains and 3 cases of overcrowding. These defects were remedied.

Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Bye-laws.

There are no lodging houses, cellar dwellings, or offensive trades in the district.

Schools.

There are six Public Elementary Schools : Newlyn (mixed) for 385 children, average attendance 147 boys and 132 girls.

Newlyn Infants for 200 children, average attendance 107.

Wesleyan (mixed) for 370 children, average attendance 130 boys, 110 girls, and 94 infants. Paul Church Town (mixed) for 200 children, average attendance 60 boys and 30 girls and 30 infants. Mousehole there are two schools in the one ground, a mixed and infants, built in 1912, suitable in every way for the requirements of the district. No Schools were closed during the year on account of disease.

Milk Supply.

The district has a large agricultural area, much milk is produced, this is of good quality and rich in cream. Part of the milk is sold in Penzance, Newlyn and Mousehole, the rest separated, the cream to be made into butter, the Sanatogen Factory taking a large quantity of separated milk. Many farmers in the district now send their milk direct to the Milk Factory at Trevellow.

There are eight shops (generally grocers' shops) where milk is brought each morning in covered Cans and retailed to consumers. The Villagers mostly fetch their milk supplies from the numerous farms.

The dairies are frequently inspected, and with few exceptions are clean and well kept. One Cow Shed and Dairy was put in proper condition. Bovine Tuberculosis is rare ; only one case reported during the year, and the carcass destroyed. Seeing that cows are kept in the open for the greater part of the year, freedom from this disease should be expected. On the whole it can be said that the inhabitants are supplied with pure milk.

Penzance taking the larger share exercises strict supervision, and the smaller supply to Newlyn and district is pure. There was one case of infectious disease in connection with a keeper of a dairy : strict measures were taken to prevent contamination of the milk supply.

There are 38 dairies registered, many of the owners of these dairies send their milk direct to the Trevello Factory to be made into butter.

Other Foods.

There are no slaughter houses in the district, all meat is brought from Penzance. No foods are prepared except the pilchard which is cured and sent to the Italian markets. There may be isolated cases of fish unfit for food, but it is against the interests of the fish buyers to purchase unwholesome fish and as they are good judges of this commodity very little bad fish is sold.

The bakehouses, 10 in number are inspected regularly, and found in a satisfactory condition. Bread is baked in four of these, but one of the chief uses is for the villagers to bring their dinners already prepared and to get them cooked. No underground bakehouses.

There are no drugs sold in the district.

Housing.

The Sanitary Inspector of the district is appointed as Inspector under the Housing and Town Planning Act of 1909.

New houses of modern construction are being erected in different parts of the district especially on the side of Paul Hill. The house accommodation of Newlyn and Mousehole is about the same. Mostly old houses, substantially built, clean interiors, but with very few sanitary arrangements of any kind ; and in a large number of cases no room for these improvements. Overcrowding of inmates is rare, but as there was no supervision at the time the houses were built, too many houses are crowded into a small area. There is often too little air space, and old cellars, out-buildings, etc., occupy the little air space there is. The streets are narrow and paved with cobbles, the uneven nature of the surface harbour dirt, etc. Your Council has during the last few years improved the surface of many of the streets, and more are to be taken in hand.

Except in Newlyn and Mousehole there is no overcrowding of houses.

If it were possible to purchase old property, cellars and land for the purpose of widening streets, and so increasing the air space, together with a system of drainage for Newlyn and Mousehole, the solution of the present difficulty would be found. But owing to the present poverty of the inhabitants it seems impossible to carry out any extensive scheme that would really improve the housing condition of these villages. Where improvements are possible they are made, as will be observed under " Sanitary Inspection of the District."

Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910.

No. of dwelling houses inspected, 99 ; total number of inspections made, 155 ; No. of dwelling houses in which defects were found, 27 ; No. of dwellings in which defects were rectified (*i.e.* made fit for human habitation) without recourse to closing Orders, Sec. 15, 24 ; No. of representations to Local Authority with a view to the making of Closing Orders, Sec. 17 (2), none ; No. of Closing Orders made, Sec. 17 (2), none ; No. of Dwelling houses closed :—(*a*) By voluntary action of owners, 3 ; (*b*) As a result of Closing Orders, none ; No. of dwelling houses which, after the making of Closing Orders were put into a fit state for human habitation, Sec. 17 (6) no Closing Orders made ; No. of dwelling houses demolished :—(*a*) By voluntary action of owners, none ; (*b*) As a result of Closing Orders, Sec. 18 (2) none.

Is there any scarcity of houses, and where ? no ; Any overcrowding of persons in houses ? three cases ; No. of cases dealt with, 3 ; Any special activity in house building, and where ? Newlyn hill ; No. of new houses built in 1913, 14 ; General character, substantial, house rent, £30 ; Are there any working-class dwellings erected by the S.A. ? no ; Any Town Planning Scheme contemplated ? no ; Who has been designated as the Inspecting Officer under Article II. of the Housing Regulations, 1910 ? The Sanitary Inspector ; No. of houses unfit, but still occupied, a great number in Newlyn Town.

Sanitary Administration of the District.

Your Council employs an Inspector of Nuisances, who also acts in the capacity of Road Surveyor and Inspector under the Housing and Town Planning Act.

Your Authority is entitled to the use of two beds at the Penzance Borough Infectious Hospital ; one case was removed there during the year. Your Council has also the use of the Disinfecting Apparatus for bedding, clothes, etc.

Bye laws have been made by your Authority with respect to new streets and buildings drainage of the same, water closets, earth closets, ash pits, and cell pools. Slaughter-houses, cleaning of footways and pavements, and for the prevention of nuisances, arising from snow, filth, dust, ashes, and rubbish, and for the prevention of the keeping of animals on any premises so as to be injurious to health

The Acts adopted in the District are : Public Health Act, 1875, Public Health Amendment Act, 1890, Infectious Disease Prevention Act, 1890, Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Act, 1885.

Prevalence of, and Control over Acute Infectious Disease.

The usual diseases scheduled in the Act, together with Tuberculosis are notified to me ; on receiving notice of infectious disease, I visit the dwellings, advise as to Isolation, Disinfection, enquire as to the cause, milk supply, and in the case of children advise as to school exclusion.

There were 11 cases of Diphtheria during the year, this is 3 more than last year.

Two cases of Enteric Fever, one being fatal ; eight cases of Scarlet Fever, these were of a mild character.

Anti-toxin is freely used in Diphtheria, and supplied free by your Council.

Prevalence and Control over Tuberculosis.

There were 2 deaths from Phthisis, and 10 notifications of the same disease, 3 notifications of other Tuberculous diseases.

There is nothing to report as to any institutional treatment of Tuberculosis, this being under the control of the County Authorities. At the present time there is no Tuberculosis Dispensary or Sanatorium in the district, cases requiring advice go to the Dispensary at Penzance, where the Tuberculosis Officer attends weekly.

So many of the houses being deficient of air space and sunlight more Tuberculosis might be expected. No doubt it is that the outdoor occupations of the majority of the inhabitants and the open air is the great preventative.

Infantile Mortality.

There were 11 deaths under the age of 1 year, giving a death rate per 1,000 nett births of 97.34, twice the death rate of 1912. Pneumonia accounted for 4 deaths, Premature Births 2, Marasmus for 4 deaths, and 2 from Enteritis. The Summer of 1913 was of an average lower temperature, which no doubt accounts for the small number of cases of Enteritis.

For a district such as this the infantile mortality should be low, but considering the want of air space in many of the cottages, the unsanitary condition of parts of Newlyn Town, and the poverty of the inhabitants, under the present conditions, a low death rate is not to be expected.

Voluntary Health Visitors would be very helpful in the district.

Vital Statistics.

During the year 1913, there were 111 births (67 male and 44 females) giving a birth rate of 18.45, to this must be added two births outside the district, the mothers being residents, making a total of 113, giving a correct birth rate of 18.79. This is still lower than the year 1912, and is consequently the lowest recorded.

Deaths numbered 63, registered in the district (32 male and 31 female) giving a death rate of 10.47, adding to this six residents dying outside the district, giving a corrected death rate of 11.49, about the same as last year and lower than the average during 1899-1908.

Cause of Death.

Of the 69 deaths registered, 33 were over 65 years of age ; 14 of these from Senile Decay ; 1 death from Enteric Fever ; 8 died from Heart Disease ; 4 met with Violent Death ; 1 from Suicide ; 3 from Measles ; 5 from Pneumonia ; 6 from Congenital Debility ; 13 from Cancer ; 28 from other defined Diseases.

Cancer again was the cause of a high mortality, after deducting the deaths of Infants, Cancer was the cause of nearly a quarter of the deaths for the year.

Factories, Workshops, and Workplaces, 1913.

There are 4 factories within the district, 2 ice-making, 1 stone quarry, employing about 100 hands, and 1 for the preparation of "Sanatogen," employing about 20 hands.

All these have good sanitary accommodation. Visits of inspection were made to each during the year.

There are 10 bakehouses, 7 at Newlyn, 3 at Mousehole. No underground bakehouses. These are regularly inspected.

Other Workshops and Workplaces are :—

Boot and Shoemakers, 8, An average of two workers in each.

Carpenters and Wheelwrights, 3. Four to each shop, most of the time outside working.

Sailmakers 3, One employed in each loft.

Enamelling in Metal, 1, Industrial Class.

Fish-curing, 16, In use two months during the year. Four girls and three men in each.

No home work is known to be done.

The above workshops have supplied sanitary accommodation for their employees.

Visits were made to all the workshops and workplaces during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

H. RUSSELL PHILLIPS, B.A., M.B., BC. (Cantab).

Medical Officer of Health, Paul.

